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Identical letters dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Earlier today, Hamas, a terrorist organization, claimed responsibility for Monday's heinous terror attack in Jerusalem. As you are aware, just as the Security Council was convening to discuss the situation in the Middle East, a public bus was blown up in the streets of downtown Jerusalem, seriously injuring dozens of Israeli citizens.

As soon as word of the terror attack spread, Hamas wasted no time in praising the attempted murder of men, women and children riding on a bus.

Senior Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzouk called it "a wonderful gift" and declared, "This is how our people celebrate martyrs."

This cruel act of violence and the subsequent glorification of terror must be denounced unequivocally.

As the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process said in his statement condemning the attack, "Terrorism and violence can never be justified, and the perpetrators of this heinous act must be brought to justice ... It is unacceptable that some have praised this act that will only fuel more hatred and further undermine prospects for peace."

Hamas's confession of responsibility comes shortly after this terror organization was caught red-handed when one of its terror tunnels extending into Israeli territory was exposed.

Hamas has declared its intention to use all means to carry out deadly attacks against Israel. Ignoring the threats of Hamas harms Israelis and Palestinians, and it harms the cause of peace.

While the Secretary-General and his envoys condemn such acts of terror, the Security Council continues to remain silent.

Yesterday, I wrote to you asking you to declare Hamas a terrorist organization and to demand that it be disarmed. Today's claim of responsibility makes these steps even more imperative.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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